A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 F16H3/70 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 F16H Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included. In the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° 1,6,19 SU 1 411 537 A (INST NADEZHNOSTI Α DOLGOVECHNOST) 23 July 1988 (1988-07-23) the whole document 1,6,9 DE 19 66 032 A (KOERNER H; KOERNER HELMUT) Α 29 April 1971 (1971-04-29) figures 1,6,9 FR 341 328 A (CORMERAIS) 5 August 1904 (1904-08-05) figures US 3 998 112 A (PIERRAT MICHEL A) 1,6,9 A 21 December 1976 (1976-12-21) figure 4 -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Special categories of cited documents: later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but died to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 24/03/2003 6 March 2003 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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